Profile

This issue of *ORL* is dedicated to the world-renowned otologist, Prof. Wolfgang Arnold from Munich, Germany, who will shortly be celebrating his 65th birthday. As the managing editor of *ORL*, he was responsible for the success of this journal from 1985 until 2002.

Wolfgang Arnold was born in Munich, November 22, 1941. He completed his medical studies with a doctor's degree in 1967 at the University of Munich and then joined the Max Planck Institute for Neuropathology in Munich as a research fellow until 1970. He began his residency and scientific career at the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, University of Frankfurt in 1970, his teacher was Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Vosteen. In 1977, he followed Prof. Vosteen to Düsseldorf, where he was his Associated Professor until 1980. In 1981, he became Head of the Department for Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at the Kantonsspital in Luzern (Switzerland). In 1992, he was appointed as Chairman and Head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Technical University of Munich. Already in 1977, W. Arnold was elected as a member of the distinguished Collegium Otorhinolaryngologicum Amicitiae Sacrum. Until today, his scientific and clinical activities have resulted in more than 350 publications in international scientific journals, handbook articles and several textbooks. His *Checkliste Hals-Nasen-Ohren-Heilkunde* meanwhile has four editions in German, three in Italian and two in the Greek language. In 1993, together with Imre Friedman, he published the textbook *Pathology of the Ear*, meanwhile a standard work for every otologist.

During his research activities in the Max Planck Institute, he first described sensory receptor cells being similar to vestibular sensory cells within the central canal of lower vertebrates; later he confirmed the connection of

the cerebrospinal fluid to the lymphatic system of the head and neck in animals as well as in humans. During the 1970s, he concentrated on the histopathology of inflammatory middle ear diseases and started his morphologic investigations of otosclerosis together with Dietrich Plester. Later in Luzern, he discovered together with Imre Friedman and Hans J. Altermatt the inflammatory nature of the otosclerotic focus and they were the first to describe its association with the measles virus as the cause of inflammation. Together with Matti Anniko, he worked out the functional morphology of the human outer hair cells with outstanding results. Another field of interest was the immunologic function of the human endolymphatic sac where he first described, together with

Hans J. Altermatt, its antibody secretion into the endolymph.

W. Arnold was always convinced that otosclerosis is definitely caused by measles viruses. So his main activities since 1992 in Munich were to prove this hypothesis. Together with Hans Peter Niedermeyer, they were able to show that the inflammatory phase (otospongiosis) is caused by a persistent measles virus infection of genotype A and that measles virus vaccination dramatically reduces the incidence of the disease at least among the German population.

Together with the undersigned, W. Arnold initiated the meanwhile established and well-accepted finite element model of the human cochlea and its connection to the middle ear ossicles which today allows clinical researchers to experimentally control and test middle and inner ear mechanics.

A listing of all his fields of interest is impossible and his coworkers with respect to time often have problems to follow his enthusiastic ideas.

Arnold's clinical specialities for which patients fill our clinic from far and wide are ear surgery, inner ear diseases, cochlea implant, implantable hearing aids and head and neck surgery. As an excellent surgeon and teacher, he always encouraged his coworkers for top quality. Many of his pupils today are successfully acting in leading positions.

The listing of all mentioned fields makes it clear that his ideas and work depend on a well-functioning multidisciplinary collaboration. On behalf of my colleagues, I want to express that W. Arnold constantly supported this necessary multidisciplinary work. He always stimulated the gathering of different fields and gave support by his ideas and encouragement.

ENT physicians and researchers congratulate W. Arnold on his 65th birthday and wish him health, continuity in his activities, but more time and muse for his family and his violin.

Frank Böhnke, Munich

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